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PERSONALLY SPEAKING

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## Perfidy Masked As Patriotism

Washington

A column in the Washington Post recently gave glowing praise to an organization in Boston called the Ad Hoc Military Buildup Committee which has set up shop to leak American military secrets.

Its object, of course, is to hamper the United States effort in Vietnam.

According to the columnist, Nicholas von Hoffman, the Boston group collects intelligence on troop deployment, ship movements and Air Force assignments from dissident servicemen who phone in collect with their reports.



Cole

IN A TIME OF DECLARED WAR, the servicemen and the Ad Hoc Committee would be subject to espionage laws. And, in fact, "spies for peace" is how Von Hoffman characterizes them in his laudatory account.

Perfidy is a strange quirk. It is not unusual to find it masquerading as patriotism.

The logic of the antiwar fanatics is that American involvement in Vietnam is wrong, therefore to make the nation's task there more difficult is a demonstration of love for America.

The possibility that such devotion can get a neighbor's son killed, or cause some young mother's husband to be shot down, or might sink a ship—these prospects evidently don't figure in such patriotic idealism.

This is, in fact, not different from the kind of sentiment that motivated Julius and Ethel Rosenberg when they gave the nation's atomic secrets to Soviet spies and became the only Americans executed for such an act.

It is, however, an altogether different kind of patriotism from the kind that brought Col. Abel from the Soviet Union to America to collect such

secrets as any volunteers or mercenaries might be willing to supply to their country's Cold War enemy.

RUDOLF ABEL — NOBODY KNEW his real name—was the Soviet spymaster who lived inconspicuously in New York City, gathering American secrets for the Kremlin until he was caught, convicted and sentenced to 30 years in prison. He maintained sphinxlike silence throughout, and he would have served out his term, no doubt, if the U.S. had not at last traded him for U-2 pilot Gary Powers.

Somehow, it is possible to manage a little grudging admiration for Col. Abel, who risked his neck and was silently willing to take the penalty. He lived a lonely and furtive life far from Moscow where his family remained, probably as a kind of surety for his loyalty. Nonetheless, he served his native land faithfully.

His silence contrasts sharply with the behavior of Victor L. Marchetti, who worked for the Central Intelligence Agency as a high-level official. The Justice Department is in the process of seeking court action to keep him from disclosing secrets entrusted to him while he was in the government service.

Marchetti, it is clear, disapproves of the CIA and has said as much in interviews and articles; and he is now said to be writing a book on the subject.

HE, TOO, PROBABLY SEES THIS as a form of patriotic protest.

Granted the Vietnam War is unpopular—as manifestly it is with a great number of Americans. Granted, also, that it is a vexing business for a free country to require the services of an agency like CIA.

In a republic, however, there are available many methods of protest. Activity that can hurt fellow countrymen oughtn't be one of them.